

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 30, AUGUST 6

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NOTHING TO REPORT

II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

1. TRAGER MISSES -- UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSORS REACTED NEGATIVELY TO A PRESENTATION BY NATIONAL STRATEGY INFORMATION CENTER DIRECTOR FRANK TRAGER ON "US AND ASIA: PRESENT OUTLOOK AND FUTURE PROSPECTS." LATER CONVERSATIONS WITH THREE PROFESSORS INDICATED THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, WHO ATTENDED FELT THE NYU PROFESSOR WAS MORE INTERESTED IN REHASHING COLD WAR IDEOLOGY THAN IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN THIS REGION. ONE DESCRIBED HIM AS "MECHANISTIC" AND ANOTHER SAID SHE HOPED HE WOULD REPRESENTATIVE OF CURRENT AMERICAN THINKING OF FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD SEA. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE ENDS: A MAJOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BINATIONAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO "BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS

CULTURES" TOOK PLACE JULY 28 - AUGUST 2 IN QUEZON CITY. SUPPORTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION, IT WAS ORGANIZED THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND, LOCALLY, THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE EAST AND PHILIPPINES AND THE ATENEO. AMONG THE US DELEGATES WERE MISSOURI'S JOHN MERRILL AND KANSAS' NOBLEZA ASCUNCION-LANDE, AND PEPPERDINE'S FRED CASMIR. THE POST SUPPORTED BY REPRODUCING PAPERS READ BY THE AMERICANS AND HOSTING A WELL-ATTENDED RECEPTION. CLOSE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL TIES SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AMONG THE DELEGATES AND THE POSSIBILITY WAS RAISED OF INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES BETWEEN PARTICIPATING US AND PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITIES. THE CONFERENCE WAS SUCCESSFUL ON ITS OWN TERMS, ACCORDING TO DELEGATES FROM BOTH COUNTRIES, AND ALSO OFFERED THE POST AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP IN-DEPTH CONTACT WITH ACADEMIC COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS HERE.

3. COLONIAL HISTORIAN BATS 500: BROWN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR GORDON WOOD SPOKE TWICE HERE THIS WEEK. HIS FIRST LECTURE ON "THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION IN THE WORLD" AT UP-MANILA WENT REASONABLY WELL. BUT DISCUSSIONS AFTERWARD WAS DESULTORY, LEAVING OBSERVERS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT WOOD'S AUDIENCE HAD BEEN LESS THAN GRIPPED BY WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC. HIS SECOND PROGRAM HERE BEFORE 76 PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS FROM ARS UNIVERSITIES, HOWEVER, WAS EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE. QUESTIONING WAS ACTIVE, INTENSE AND INFORMED. HE DEFENDED HIS THESIS ABOUT THE "SOCIAL RADICALISM OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" DEFTLY AND CONVINCINGLY. ON BALANCE, HIS VISIT WAS SUPPORTIVE OF POST OBJECTIVES ON AMERICAN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES.

4. PAEF ORIENTS DEPARTING FILIPINOS: TWENTY-TWO FULBRIGHT AND EAST-WEST CENTER GRANTEES UNDERWENT A THREE-DAY ORIENTATION AT THE EMBASSY AUGUST 4-6. THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDES TWO AMERICAN STUDIES STUDENTS, RECEIVED BRIEFINGS ON THEIR OWN CULTURE AS WELL AS THAT OF THE UNITED STATES IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREPARE THEM FOR CONTRASTS THEY WILL ENCOUNTER IN THE U.S.

5. LIYO MAKES FRIENDS: THE LONG ISLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA DID WELL AT THE TWO UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES AT WHICH IT PLAYED (UP-DILIMAN AND UP-LOS BANOS) BUT STRUCK A LESS THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH THE TICKET-BUYING PUBLIC FOR ITS CONCERT AT THE CCP. AN SRO CROWD AT DILIMAN INCLUDED FORMER UP PRESIDENT S.P. LOPEZ AND OTHER LEADING PROFESSORS WHO APPLAUDED WILDLY FOR "THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER," THE LIYO'S ENCORE. FOR OBSERVERS WHO RECALLED THE DIFFICULT DAYS OF A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN RADICAL STUDENTS BLOCKED US ACCESS TO THE CAMPUS, IT WAS A STARTLING REACTION. WHILE THE CCP CROWD WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING, THE ORCHESTRA'S LACK OF DRAWING

POWER WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED. THE NEW YORK GROUP
REPRESENTED THE US WELL AND INTERACTED POSITIVELY WITH YOUNG
FILIPINO MUSICIANS. USIS PROVIDED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE,
INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION AND AN INTRODUCTORY RECEPTION.
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